Contents

	Preface	X
1	Introduction: Aims of This Work, and Some Basic Concepts	1
	Some Basic Premises 2 The Plan of This Book 6 Note 9 References 9	
2	Anthropology and Cultural Reality	10
	Cultural Relativism and Cultural "Reality" 13 Responding to Extraordinary Claims 15 Perception and Culture 16 Belief 18 Culture as a System 19 Strengths of Anthropology 19 Other Important Considerations 20 Notes 22 References 23	
3	The Supernatural	25
	Power 26 Priests and Shamans 27 A Model of Religious Beliefs 28 The Vertical Dimension 29 The Horizontal Dimension 32 Is Religion Inherently Human? 34 Notes 35 References 36	

4	Magic, Inherently Human	38
	Meanings of "Magic" 38 Magic in Anthropology 41 The Principles of Magic 45	
	Power 46	
	Forces 49 A Coherent, Interconnected Cosmos 50	
	Symbols 51	
	Frazer's Principles 52	
	Contact 53	
	Similarity 54	
	Notes 60	
	References 63	
5	Magic in Mystical/Ritual Contexts	68
	The Magical Act 68	
	Sorcery 73	
	The Magical Power of Words, Blessing and Curse, and Gesture 76	
	Taboo and Pollution 81	
	Divination 83	
	Magical Protection and Healing 85	
	A Social Dimension of Magical Thinking? 88	
	An Exercise: Magic in Superstitions 89	
	Notes 92	
	References 94	
6	Witchcraft (and Sorcery): Inherently Human	98
	Further Meanings of "Sorcery" 98	
	Meanings of "Witchcraft" 100	
	Witchcraft in Anthropology 101	
	History of the Anthropological Concern with Witchcraft 103	
	The Sociology and Social Psychology of Sorcery and Witchcraft Beliefs 106	
	Sorcery or Witchcraft: Does It Matter? 108	
	Societies that Lack Witches 109	
	Why Do People Believe These Things So Fervently? 109 Notes 112	
	References 114	

7	The Witch is a Composite of Fundamental Fears and Fantasies	119
	1: Social Subversion 120 2: Nocturnal Activity 120 3: Transformation 121 4: Flight 123 5: The "Familiar" 124 6: The "Sabbat" 125 7: Spread of Disease 128 8: Abduction of Children 129 9: Illicit Sexual Behavior 130 10: Ritual Murder 132 11: Ritual Use of Blood and/or Body Parts 133 12: Cannibalism 135 13: Vampirism 138 14: Association with Death 140 Witchcraft by Looking: The Evil Eye 141 Notes 144 References 148	
8	Dark Shamans and Child-Eating Satanists: Summary Conclusions A "Dark Side" of Shamanism 155 Child-Stealing, Murderous, Cannibalistic Satanists 157 The Stuff of Conspiracy Theories 160 Summary Conclusions 162 Magic, Inherently Human 162 Witchcraft, Inherently Human 163 Notes 164 References 165	155
	Glossary of Frequently Confused Terms Index	169 171